



# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

## KCPC This Week

*"Knowing the love of Christ together with all the saints." - Eph. 3:18-19*

**Week Ending, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015**



### **Upcoming Events- Lord willing!**

**Prepare for Worship!:** Your elders encourage you to spend time in prayer each Saturday evening, preparing your hearts and praying for the worship of our God.

**Baptism of Andrew David Vermette:** Covenant Child Andrew David Vermette will be baptized this Lord's Day, **March 15<sup>th</sup>** during the morning worship service.

**New Member!** The elders will be receiving **Josiah DeGraaf** into membership at KCPC during our morning worship service on **March 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Let us thank God for continuing to build His congregation here in Purcellville.

**Men and Boys Breakfast this Saturday:** This study doesn't separate the men from the boys, it seeks to build them both up in their most holy faith and encourage them in the love of Jesus! Come on Saturday morning, **March 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-10 am.**

**Church Fellowship Meal this Lord's Day after worship:** Our theme this month, "*Spring Thaw*". Bring some of your favorite home cookin' recipes and let us enjoy the spring thaw together. It will be held after the morning worship service at the church building. We can use your help setting up tables and chairs and also for cleaning up afterwards. Sign-up here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0e48aeae2fa02-march3>

**Good Friday Service:** Friday, **April 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 7 pm we will have our annual Good Friday worship and celebration here at KCPC in Purcellville with our sister church Potomac Hills PCA. More details coming.

**Women's Bible Study:** The study meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday nights at 7pm. All women are welcome to attend.

**Shorter Catechism Memorization for KCPC in 2015:** See pg. 3, '*From Your Pastor*' Section. Let's seek to memorize the Shorter Catechism together as a congregation.

**Locust Street Film Night:** We will take a short break in March, and will plan our next film night on **April 17** at 7 pm. We will enjoy viewing and discussing the film noir classic '*Touch of Evil*' with Orson Welles and Charlton Heston.

**KCPC Book Table- Featured Books:** **KCPC Book Table- Featured Books:** This week is featured '*Voices from the Past*' and a new children's morning and evening devotional "*Little Pillows and Morning Bells*"! This one is full of sweet grace and truth, very Christ-focused, and warm-hearted, and written Frances Havergal with short hymns for morning and evening.

*"Yet now be strong, [leaders of God's people].... Be strong...  
Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the LORD. Work, for I am with  
you, declares the LORD of hosts, according to the covenant that I made with  
you... My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not."  
- Haggai 2:4-5 (excerpts)*

## *From Your Pastor*

### *A Study of the Shorter Catechism*

**Question:** How doth God execute his decrees?

**Answer:** God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

**Scripture memory:** <sup>ESV</sup> **Ephesians 1:9-10:** "...Making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."

**An explanation:** Last week, we learned that the Eternal, Blessed, Bountiful and Boundless God, without the counsel or aid of anyone else, has appointed and determined all of history "according to the counsel of His will" or for His mere good pleasure (Eph. 1:9-10).

God's decrees are executed, or performed, or come to pass, or are realized in the works of creation and providence (Heb. 11:3; 1:3). The Eternally Blessed God, who had decreed according to His infallible foreknowledge from eternity past, decided to create space and time for His own glory, and to uphold and govern this creation wisely and powerfully with the goal of bringing all things together in Christ at the end of history (Eph. 1:9-10; cf. Isa. 46:10). The important distinction between God's works of creation and providence in the outworking of God's decree is that in creation God worked according to the Word of His power without the use of means, whereas in providence, He ordinarily uses secondary causes as tools or means in His sovereign hands to bring about His good plan (Acts 4:27-28).

God has not decreed anything because He saw it in the future; all of God's plans are "known from of old" (Acts 15:16-18) and are decreed "before the foundation of the world" (Eph. 1:4). All of history unfolds the way it does from beginning to end "from Him and through Him and to Him...to Him be the glory," (Rom. 11:36), and "in order that God's purpose of election might continue" (Rom. 9:11), and absolutely nothing He has decreed can fail (Isa. 46:10; Dan. 4:35; Rom. 9:19). All things have been created by God and for God ultimately (Col. 1:16; Rev. 4:11). The Lord has made all things for Himself... (Prov. 16:4a), and "in Him we live and move and have our very being" (Acts 17:28).

Yet even though God is all sovereign and is executing His purposes in history, He is in no way the author of sin (James 1:13, 17; 1 John 1:5), nor does His decree take away the will of the creature (Acts 2:23; 4:27-28; Prov. 16:33). When men choose to act evil, they do so freely according to their own free will, and they will be judged for it. Mysteriously, (and wonderfully!) God uses even bad things for His glory and our good! (Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28; Job 42:5; Psa. 119:67, 71).

**Nothing that God has decreed shall fail. All things will glorify God and be for our good! Let us say joyfully with Jesus:**

**"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." - : <sup>ESV</sup> Mark 13:31**

**A prayer:** Thank you, dear Sovereign Lord, for ordaining all things, of creating all things, and upholding and governing all things by the Word of your power. Thank you, Merciful Lord of History, that I can trust you that all things that happen in my life are according to your will, and will be for the praise of your glorious grace...and my good!

**In Christ's love,  
Pastor Biggs**

*"The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts.  
The latter glory of this house [Temple] shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts."*

**- Haggai 2:8-9**

# THIS LORD'S DAY

## Sermon Title: *"The Apocalypse", Part 3* or *"The Coming of the Son of Man in Glory"*

– Pastor Charles R. Biggs

**Theme of Sermon:** The coming of the Son of man in great power and glory will come at a time we do not expect. God's saints should be characterized by their faithfulness, alertness, watchfulness, and expectancy as they await this Great Day of God! Let us be *waiting wisely and watchfully* as God's saints at KCPC!

**Scripture Lesson:** Daniel 7:9-14, 27-28; Matthew 25:1-13

**Scripture Text:** Mark 13:24-37

### Questions for Family Discussion/ Thoughtful Meditation:

- \* **Read Mark 13.** Some falsely (and may I say *dangerously!*?) teach that there will be another physical temple built in Jerusalem before the coming of Jesus. Why would there need to be another temple once Jesus has come, and God's Spirit has inhabited God's people? What could be a greater blessedness this side of heaven than to understand that our hearts have been made a kind of "holy of holies" in Jesus Christ?! The Old Covenant Temple was a type, and now the reality and substance has come in Jesus, why would anyone revert back to the old way of types and shadows? Would that not be yet another "abomination of desolation"? Ponder and discuss as a family.
- \* **Children:** Read Isaiah 13. What similarities do you find between that chapter and this one in Mark 13:24-27? How does that teach you to interpret Mark 13? How could the Babylonian judgment and the Roman judgment be related in redemptive-history?
- \* Read Haggai 2:4-10 and Hebrews 12:18-29. What is all the shaking and convulsions about in Mark 13:24-25, as you compare and contrast these other scriptures with it?
- \* In our last sermon, we heard of a "telescoping of events" (or "prophetic foreshortening") that is normal in prophetic (and apocalyptic literature. Like in Mark 13, you have two or more events spoken of together, like the desolation of the temple and the end of the world, but there is actually some time in between them. Mark 13 and Acts 2:14-21 are two examples of this. Try to find others.

*"For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people....And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty. "Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God."*

- <sup>ESV</sup> 2 *Corinthians 6:16-7:1*